

**§ 102-193.15 What are the records management responsibilities of the Administrator of General Services (the Administrator), the Archivist of the United States (the Archivist), and the Heads of Federal agencies?**

(a) The Administrator of General Services (the Administrator) provides guidance and assistance to Federal agencies to ensure economical and effective records management. Records management policies and guidance established by GSA are contained in this part and in parts 102-194 and 102-195 of this chapter, records management handbooks, and other publications issued by GSA.

(b) The Archivist of the United States (the Archivist) provides guidance and assistance to Federal agencies to ensure adequate and proper documentation of the policies and transactions of the Federal Government and to ensure proper records disposition. Records management policies and guidance established by the Archivist are contained in 36 CFR chapter XII and in bulletins and handbooks issued by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

(c) The Heads of Federal agencies must comply with the policies and guidance provided by the Administrator and the Archivist.

**§ 102-193.20 What are the specific agency responsibilities for records management?**

You must follow both GSA regulations in this part and NARA regulations in 36 CFR chapter XII to carry out your records management responsibilities. To meet the requirements of this part, you must take the following actions to establish and maintain the agency's records management program:

(a) Assign specific responsibility to develop and implement agencywide records management programs to an office of the agency and to a qualified records manager.

(b) Follow the guidance contained in GSA handbooks and bulletins and comply with NARA regulations in 36 CFR chapter XII when establishing and implementing agency records management programs.

(c) Issue a directive establishing program objectives, responsibilities, au-

thorities, standards, guidelines, and instructions for a records management program.

(d) Apply appropriate records management practices to all records, irrespective of the medium (e.g., paper, electronic, or other).

(e) Control the creation, maintenance, and use of agency records and the collection and dissemination of information to ensure that the agency:

(1) Does not accumulate unnecessary records while ensuring compliance with NARA regulations for adequate and proper documentation and records disposition in 36 CFR parts 1220 and 1228.

(2) Does not create forms and reports that collect information inefficiently or unnecessarily.

(3) Reviews all existing forms and reports (both those originated by the agency and those responded to by the agency but originated by another agency or branch of Government) periodically to determine if they can be improved or canceled.

(4) Maintains records economically and in a way that allows them to be retrieved quickly and reliably.

(5) Keeps mailing and copying costs to a minimum.

(f) Establish standard stationery formats and styles.

(g) Establish standards for correspondence to use in official agency communications, and necessary copies required, and their distribution and purpose.

**§ 102-193.25 What type of records management business process improvements should my agency strive to achieve?**

Your agency should strive to:

(a) Improve the quality, tone, clarity, and responsiveness of correspondence;

(b) Design forms that are easy to fill-in, read, transmit, process, and retrieve, and reduce forms reproduction costs;

(c) Provide agency managers with the means to convey written instructions to users and document agency policies and procedures through effective directives management;

(d) Provide agency personnel with the information needed in the right place, at the right time, and in a useful format;

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(e) Eliminate unnecessary reports and design necessary reports for ease of use;

(f) Provide rapid handling and accurate delivery of mail at minimum cost; and

(g) Organize agency files in a logical order so that needed records can be found rapidly to conduct agency business, to ensure that records are complete, and to facilitate the identification and retention of permanent records and the prompt disposal of temporary records. Retention and disposal of records is governed by NARA regulations in 36 CFR chapter XII.

**PART 102-194—STANDARD AND OPTIONAL FORMS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

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**§102-194.5 What is the Standard and Optional Forms Management Program?**

The Standard and Optional Forms Management Program is a Governmentwide program that promotes economies and efficiencies through the development, maintenance and use of common forms. The General Services Administration (GSA) provides additional guidance on the Standard and Optional Forms Management Program through an external handbook called Standard and Optional Forms Procedural Handbook. You may obtain a copy of the handbook from:

Standard and Optional Forms Management  
Office General Services Administration  
(Forms-XR)

1800 F Street, NW.; Room 7126  
Washington, DC 20405-0002  
(202) 501-0581

<http://www.gsa.gov/forms>

**§ 102-194.10 What is a Standard form?**

A Standard form is a fixed or sequential order of data elements, prescribed by a Federal agency through regulation, approved by GSA for mandatory use, and assigned a Standard form number. This criterion is the same whether the form resides on paper or purely electronic.

**§ 102-194.15 What is an Optional form?**

An Optional form is approved by GSA for nonmandatory Governmentwide use and is used by two or more agencies. This criteria is the same whether the form resides on paper or purely electronic.

**§ 102-194.20 What is an electronic Standard or Optional form?**

An electronic Standard or Optional form is an officially prescribed set of data residing in an electronic medium that is used to produce a mirror-like image or as near to a mirror-like image as the creation software will allow of the officially prescribed form.

**§ 102-194.25 What is an automated Standard or Optional format?**

An automated Standard or Optional format is an electronic version of the officially prescribed form containing the same data elements and used for the electronic transaction of information in lieu of using a Standard or Optional form.

**§ 102-194.30 What role does my agency play in the Standard and Optional Forms Management Program?**

Your agency head or designee's role is to:

(a) Designate an agency-level Standard and Optional Forms Liaison representative and alternate, and notify GSA, in writing, of their names, titles, mailing addresses, telephone numbers, fax numbers, and e-mail addresses within 30 days of the designation or redesignation.